



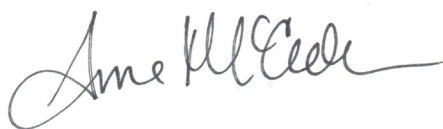
Our history begins here. Let us start you on the journey.

On the Cover: Antique cars lined the driveway on a recent group visit.



As we approach the end of 2023 we want to take this edition of The Hourglass to share updates on what we've done over the summer, what we have planned for the fall, and what we are looking forward to in 2024! I'll leave the first two areas to the newsletter and let you know what we have planned for next year. Although we have conducted lots of good planning and strategy discussions over the years, we now need to take a deep dive into planning so that the entire Center can have a proper road map for the future. We've done great work towards re-branding, drafting a mission statement and crafting a vision for the future: now we need to make all that happen. This work will take place across most of 2024 and will require the input of everyone, and I do mean everyone! Please look out for our calls for ways you can involve yourself in this work as we progress because we have no intention of planning for the future without the input of our staff, board, members, volunteers, and partners. This process will indeed "take a village," and we're looking forward to the work as well as the final result.

All the best,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Anne McEde".

Lapham-Patterson House Updates

After a long hot summer and a whole lot of renovation work, we are finally ready to welcome overnight visitors to the new suite at the Lapham-Patterson House! We're still working out the full rental process, but we're really excited to have this feature as a new revenue source and a way to show off the beautiful historical features of this National Landmark.

The renovation work took place through generous donations from a number of local supporters and some very valuable in-kind services of designers and marketing specialists.



Lapham-Patterson House bathroom before and after.

If you are interested in staying at the House or have any questions about how we will be renting the suite, please call or email Anne at anne@thomascountyhistory.org (229) 226-7664.

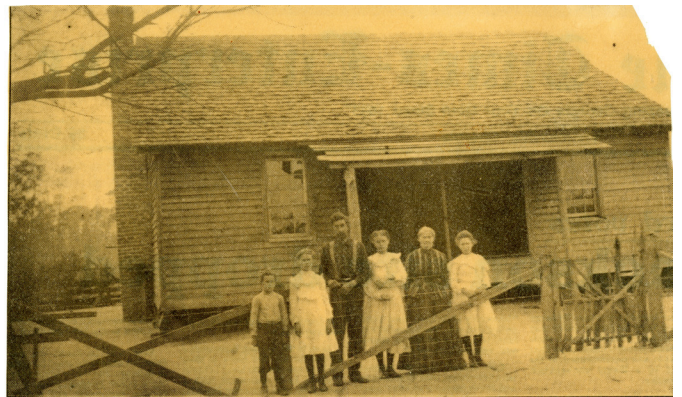
New Beginnings for Old Buildings



Robert Randall Smith Kitchen, 2019 in original location in Coolidge.

Maybe you've heard of Christmas in July, but have you ever heard of Christmas in October? That's how it felt for us as we recently got a little delivery to our backyard. And perhaps "little" is an understatement. You may have noticed our newest addition to the collection hiding in the corner. This clapboard structure is the kitchen of the Robert Randall Smith Log House, originally located in Coolidge, or Ways as Robert would have known it. If the name seems familiar, it's because Robert was the first cousin of our own Rufus L. Smith, first proprietor of the main attraction at the Smith Homestead. Like his cousin, Robert was part of the Smith family that settled much of what we now call Coolidge. His parents, Isham Allen Madison Smith Sr. and Elizabeth Ann Kennedy, brought their family to the northern part of Thomas County from Washington County, Georgia following the Civil War.

Robert (1868-1910) was one of the first of his generation to be born in Thomas County following the move. In 1889, he married Cora Bernetta "Nettie" Parramore, and the couple had five children, four surviving to adulthood. After Nettie's death in 1901, Robert's widowed mother, Elizabeth, moved in with the family. A picture provided by the descendants shows the family in 1904, standing proudly outside their log house with "Grandma Smith" in the middle. In 1905, Robert found love again and married Mary Alice Hart and proceeded to have two more children, though only one survived past infancy. In April of 1910, Elizabeth died at the age of 81, and Robert soon followed that June at the age of 42. The property remains in the family to this day.



ORIGINAL HOUSE — Coolidge: The Smith family is shown in front of the family's house in 1904. The house, originally built in 1855, was remodeled numerous times and currently is located at Route 2. The Smith clan gathered in this photo are (L-R) Dawson Smith, Stella Smith, Robert Randall Smith, Effie Smith (Pilkinton), Grandma Smith and Annie Smith (Terrell). This picture was submitted for use in the Times-Enterprise series of historical pictures of the pre-1945 era by Herbert Smith of Coolidge, son of Robert Randall Smith.

That brings us to why the Robert Randall Smith family's kitchen is sitting in our backyard. Thanks to the family connection of the other Smith and Kennedy log buildings on the grounds, the descendants reached out to us about taking in the kitchen. Over the years, the former kitchen transformed into a separate outbuilding, housing farming and housekeeping tools. In the 21st century, the family no longer needed the old kitchen building for this purpose. However, they recognized its significance to the story of their family and the area and knew its preservation would be beneficial to others. Through many talks and much assistance from the family and our friends at Voniers House Moving, the little log kitchen is now part of the History Center. This move is the first step in the kitchen's preservation: being moved to a safe location where the structure will be cared for and put to new use. We have big plans for this new structure to our campus so stay tuned as the work progresses.. In a way, log houses are like potato chips – you can't have just one.



Visit The Lobby

The cat's out of the bag: we're expanding our museum gift shop!

If you've walked into the History Center in the past few months, you may have noticed some activity buzzing in the former Resort Era Room. With a new coat of paint on the walls, we've been busily expanding our gift shop offerings to better serve visitors to the. The Lobby at the Thomasville History Center will serve as a visitor's first stop into the experience.

For many years, we have offered a range of books and posters focused on Thomas County's history. With our expanded range of goods, we hope to supply visitors with more reading material for the curious and with items that will interest everyone who walks through our doors from the young in body to the young at heart. These products will reflect the History Center's collections, providing guests and locals with mementos of their time at the Museum. Customized products will include puzzles, stickers, and postcards featuring historic maps and locations as well as t-shirts and totes to help you represent your hometown spirit! Products from local artists and makers will also be featured, supporting small local businesses, and keeping your contributions local.

The Lobby will also function as our new location for all your touring and membership needs. Guests will be able to purchase tickets to the History Center and special tours at the front desk. Members and non-members will be able to make reservations for special events like Crate to Plate and Pilau, or renew their membership with ease.



Proceeds from The Lobby will be used to support the Thomasville History Center through educational programs, collection conservation, historic building upkeep, and more! We humbly ask for your support by joining us for our grand opening on November 26th at 1pm.

Already a member? Join us November 25th for a members-only soft opening of the The Lobby.

Peruse the merchandise and score one-of-a-kind Thomas County merchandise just in time for the holiday season! We hope to see you there!

We're Certified



Summer is always a busy time at the Thomasville History Center, but that doesn't mean education can take a break! In August, staff from the Thomasville History Center, alongside friends from Pebble Hill Plantation, Jack Hadley Black History Museum, and the Center for the Arts participated in the National Association of Interpreters' training program for Certified Interpretive Guides. An internationally recognized program, the N.A.I. is a "professional organization dedicated to advancing the profession of heritage interpretation" with a decades-long reputation for leading the field of interpretation. Under the instruction of the amazing Abby Gwinn, Director of Community Engagement with the McWane Science Center in Birmingham, and an N.A.I. Certified Instructor, we learned the ins and outs of interpretation in the museum field over four days.

Defined as "a purposeful approach to communication that facilitates meaningful, relevant, and inclusive experiences that deepen understanding, broaden perspectives, and inspire engagement with the world around us," the concept of interpretation seemed daunting at first. But with Abby's gentle guidance, we soon saw how intuitive much of interpretation can be.

Day one of our program began with going back to basics: what is interpretation? And how did it become a thing? We learned about meeting the needs of our audience whether that means providing snacks on excursions or having enough seating in our galleries. By ensuring visitors are comfortable and pleased, we can remove obstacles to engagement and learning during programs. Simple enough, right?

By day two we put our new skills to the test. Abby's challenge to us: create a ten-minute program on a subject of our choosing to present to the class. After fighting off nightmare-inducing flashbacks to high school projects gone by, we got to work. By day three we were racing to the finish line. Presentations took place on day four. Time was put into perspective as the once agonizingly long ten minutes we needed to fill suddenly whizzed by in a flash as each participant got up to speak. Luckily, we were in a room of friends, all wanting to support one another by asking relevant questions, participating in tasks and quizzes, and not taking the role of over-inquisitive tourist too seriously. By the end of the day, we'd all learned something new: from alternative histories of Thomas County, to a deep dive into Pebble Hill's occupants, to lessons in art, and a trip through the life and times of The Grateful Dead. And we're proud to say that every participant passed their test to become Certified Interpretive Guides (complete with the coveted, shiny C.I.G. Badge!) With a new lease on programming, we sent Abby home just in time to avoid the storms of Idalia.

So what did we learn from this course? We learned how to better serve our visitors – you in fact – whether its by molding our programming to better accommodate all visitors or even tiny tweaks to our visitor experience that make the museum a more comfortable place to be and explore. But what we really found out is that each one of us is a guide, a creative thinker, a problem solver, and an interpreter. Does that answer your question?

Sincerely yours,
The C.I.G. Club

Hangout @ Pilau

31st Annual Pilau Dinner

Tuesday, November 7, 2023

Takeout & Hangout

Hangout on the grounds and enjoy live music by Blue Burden (Acoustic) with your Pilau! Bowl a frame in the 1896 bowling alley or relax by the fire pit. B.Y.O. chairs or picnic blankets & beverages.

Parking available in the History Center's Webster St. lot.

Takeout

4pm-6:30pm

SCAN ME FOR TICKETS!



Hangout

5:30pm-7:30pm

Counting On...



Wilmot Castle 777 Speed
Autoclave
Bell Collection
1991.12.04

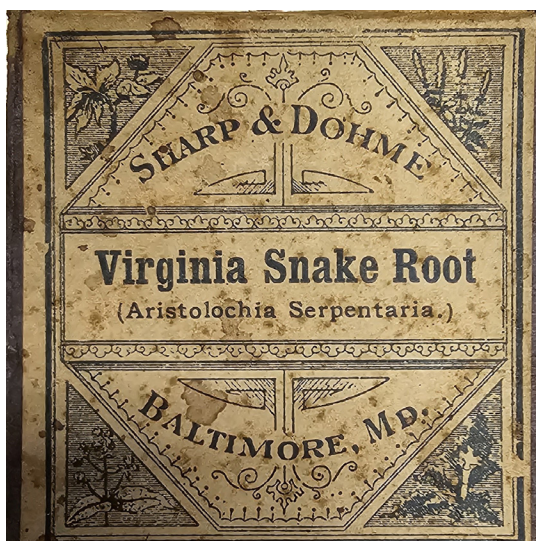
The complete inventorying of the collections of the Thomasville History Center continues to work through a myriad of storage groups that are both thematic-and-material oriented. Over the past few months, our collections of music, domestic and personal items, and healthcare items have been cleaned, photographed, curated, and entered into our database.

The History Center's music collection includes most types of physical media that can store recorded music, and the technology that plays them. It also includes instruments from Thomasville and Thomas County musicians, and accessories that go along with instruments, like piano benches and music stands.

The media in the History Center's collection includes wax cylinders from the earliest type of phonographs, 45 singles, Edison "Diamond Disc" records, 8-track cassettes, reel-to-reel audio, LP albums, and a variety of player piano rolls spanning from the massive wood-and-metal pin cylinders for Mary Burger's 1850 French pump organ to slender paper rolls made in the 1950s. Perhaps most interesting is our collection of music from Thomasville-based production companies, like Land o' Roses Records from the 1970s and Chic Records, a rockabilly outfit owned by Cicero "Chic" Thompson Jr. and recorded at his family's Hollywood Plantation house.



Chic Records - "Steps of Sorrow" and "These Hands" by Dick Lindy with The Jordanaires and Milly, 1957
Music Collection
2009.012.0008



Virginia Snake Root
Inman Collection
1975.03.03

Our healthcare collection includes equipment from some well-known doctors and dentists in Thomasville and some medicine from some well-remembered pharmacies. Highlights include the mortar and pestle of Dr. William Wallace Bruce from 1885, an autoclave sterilizer from the office of Dr. Rudolph Bell, and Dr. Vance Watt's sphygmomanometer (blood pressure cuff and meter). We have homoeopathic medicines and medicine containers from the early 20th century from the Milton-Mash Drug Company like cascara sagrada and Virginia snake root, and medicines like castor oil and "Dr. Tutt's Liver Pills" from the Inman Drug Company, amongst others.

All of these items, in addition to being of interest to researchers and providing tangible evidence of Thomasville and Thomas County's past also assist us in exhibiting the full array of items in our collections.

Calendar Notes

Add these dates to your calendar!

Stay updated via our email newsletter. Not a subscriber or haven't been receiving updates from us?

Email amelia@thomascountyhistory.org

November 23: History Center Closed

November 25: Members' Only Preview of The Lobby, 1pm-3pm; Remember, members receive a discount on books and merchandise purchases!

November 26: Museum Store Sunday & Grand Opening of The Lobby 12-4pm; Shop our shelves and get a jump-start on your holiday shopping!

December 9: JoNina Farm Clip'N Sip, 10am-3pm, part of proceeds benefit the Thomasville History Center

December 24 & 25: History Center Closed

January 1: History Center Closed

February 11: Show & Tell, 2024 Annual Meeting and Super Museum Sunday Free Admission Day

March: Slides of March Series: Thomas County Alternate Histories; dates T.B.A.

THE LOBBY



The Lobby will be open Monday-Saturday, 10am-4pm
Paid admission to the History Center not required to shop. Enjoy our selection of home goods, books and stationary, jewelry, apparel, games and toys for the young and young at heart, and more...



JoNina Farm Annual Clip ~N~ Sip

Join us here on JoNina Farm to enjoy all things citrus!

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to
3 PM

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November 24
November 25
December 2
December 9



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Live Music
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You - Clip Citrus
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Photo Grid Captions: (clockwise from left) Week 2 NEH attendees receive a tour of Bnai Israel Synagogue from Ephraim; Week 1 Bonus Attendee Emmanuel receives his certificate of completion; Cross Creek 4th graders compare notes on the Lapham-Patterson House scavenger hunt; Board members chat at the annual Volunteer Appreciation Party; Baskets stacked and waiting for goodies at Crate to Plate; A bountiful garden harvest from the Smith Homestead; Meme and volunteers distribute crates to the waiting cars at Crate to Plate.

Join the Board of Directors

Nominations for the Thomasville History Center 2024 Board of Directors are now being accepted!

Nominations close Wednesday, November 15, 2023

The Thomasville History Center Board of Directors seeks nominations of those who can expand the racial and ethnic diversity, generational and regional representation, and professional experience of our Board.

We welcome all nominations and candidates that possess professional skills commensurate with governance of a non-profit organization and museum operations.

Serving on the History Center's Board of Directors is a chance to:

- Help the organization face challenges
- Provide creative solutions
- Contribute to a growing museum and research center
- And affect long-term growth

Board service also offers you the opportunity to:

- Grow personally and professionally,
- Develop valuable skills in non-profit governance
- Gain unique experience, and
- Make lasting connections with a team of other passionate and motivated community members.

Please consider serving on the Board and submitting a nomination for the 2024 Thomasville History Center Board of Directors. For more information on our current Board of Directors as well as the general and specific responsibilities of our Board members, please contact Anne McCudden at anne@thomascountyhistory.org.

Please send your nominations to anne@thomascountyhistory.org.

Nominations should include:

1. Name of Nominee, address, and contact information (including email)
2. Brief statement or cover letter outlining why the nominee would like to be a Board member.
3. Resume or short background of the Nominee and
4. Reference (optional)

QUICK FACTS

- Term is 3 years
- Can serve 2 consecutive terms
- November 15- Nominations Close
- November 2023- Nominations Committee Meets & Decides
- February 11, 2024- Slate of Nominations announced and voted upon at Annual Meeting
- February 27, 2024- First Board Meeting

Adventure Guides

Over the last few years, we've seen a marked increase in our field trip bookings as we've developed new relationships with local schools and educators. On any given day in May, there are likely several dozen students touring, exploring, or getting hands-on with history across our property. And while these numbers are fantastic for our statistics and mission fulfillment, we've come to realize that we need help! Enter our new adult volunteer corps called the Adventure Guides.

Our new Adventure Guides will be field trip and special activity volunteers trained in museum education best practice with a focus on the History Center's interpretive goals. On October 16, our first cohort of Adventure Guides- Vanessa Patz, Mercer Watt, and Claire Timm- completed a four hour training with Amelia and Meme. Training included the big picture stuff like styles of learning, theories of museum education, and interpretive guide training inspired by our recent NAI course, as well as local information on our historic structures. In the coming months, our Guides will also complete The Treehouse's training course, "From Darkness to Light" which includes information on mandated reporting and child sexual abuse awareness.



At a recent meeting of local cultural educators, Amelia and Meme broached the idea of bringing this training to a wider audience in partnership with our friends at other local organizations. Plans are underway to explore this opportunity in the coming months. In the meantime, if you are interested in joining the Adventure Guides, you must be comfortable dealing with all the little folks and the grown ones too; be enthusiastic and curious; and able to stand for long periods of time. Volunteers may be subject to a background check and must abide by the History Center's policies and procedures.

On the Same Page

Did you know that several local non-profits and businesses maintain a secret calendar of events? This private calendar is the latest tool in our collective toolbox to help ensure that local organizations can find opportunities to collaborate and spread the scheduling love so you, our supporters and neighbors, can attend as many as possible! Over the last year, the shared planning calendar has brought together representatives from nearly a dozen local organizations and businesses to share upcoming events, collaborate, and even commiserate. This calendar includes confirmed events as well as tentative ones that we use in creating our event schedules. Amelia leads the initiative alongside Mariam Mirabzadeh and Janet Cable of Thomasville Center for the Arts. Are you involved in an organization that offers public events? Add thomasvilleplanningcalendar@gmail.com to your contact list and we'll add your event to the private calendar. We'd also love for you to pull up a seat at the table, and share your upcoming schedules at our next discussion in early 2024. But remember, it's a secret!



See photo captions on page 8.



Thomas County Historical Society
P.O. Box 1922
Thomasville, GA 31799-1922

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2023-2024
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